

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

NATALIE BACHER,	)	
	)	<b>Case No. 3:24-cv-01113-JPG</b>
Plaintiff,	)	<b>CJRA Track: B</b>
	)	<b>Mandatory Mediation: Yes</b>
vs.	)	<b>Jury Trial: June 2, 2025</b>
	)	
PENN ALUMINUM	)	
INTERNATIONAL, LLC,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**JOINT REPORT OF PARTIES AND  
PROPOSED SCHEDULING AND DISCOVERY ORDER**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) and SDIL-LR 16.2(a), an initial conference of the parties was held on June 3, 2024 with Mohammed O. Badwan, Esq. for Plaintiff and Conor P. Neusel participating.

SCHEDULING AND DISCOVERY PLANS WERE DISCUSSED AND AGREED TO AS FOLLOWS:

1. A stipulation selecting a mediator shall be filed with the Court by July 1, 2024.
2. Initial interrogatories and requests to produce, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 33 and 34 shall be served on opposing parties by June 28, 2024.
3. Plaintiff's deposition shall be taken by December 31, 2024.
4. Defendant's deposition shall be taken by December 31, 2024.
5. Motions to amend the pleadings, including the commencement of a third-party action, shall be filed by August 30, 2024 (no later than **90 days** following the Scheduling and Discovery conference).
6. Expert witnesses shall be disclosed, along with a written report prepared and signed by the witness pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2), as follows:

Plaintiff's expert(s): September 31, 2024  
Defendant's expert(s): November 30, 2024.  
Third Party expert(s): November 30, 2024.

7. Depositions of expert witnesses must be taken by:

Plaintiff's expert(s): December 13, 2024  
Defendant's expert(s): January 10, 2025.  
Third Party expert(s): January 10, 2025.

8. The parties **CERTIFY** that they have discussed, in particular, the proportionality of discovery, the burden and expense associated with discovery, and the discovery of electronically stored information (ESI). The parties do not anticipate a need for ESI protocol. The parties shall submit to the Court any joint proposed ESI protocol no later than June 28, 2024. (The protocol shall contain mechanisms for addressing necessary topics concerning ESI to include sources of information, search terms, format of production and preservation of ESI by both Plaintiff(s) and Defendant(s)).
9. The **Mandatory Mediation Session** shall be completed by December 23, 2024 (no later than **30 days** before the discovery cut-off).
10. **Discovery** shall be completed by January 22, 2025 (no later than **130 days** before the first day of the month of the presumptive trial month or the first day of the month of the trial setting). Any written interrogatories or request for production served after the date of the Scheduling and Discovery Order shall be served by a date that allows the served parties the full **30 days** as provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in which to answer or produce by the discovery cut-off date.
11. The **Mandatory Mediation Process** shall be completed by February 6, 2025 (no later than 15 days after the discovery cut-off).
12. All **dispositive motions** shall be filed by February 21, 2025 (no later than **100 days** before the first day of the month of the presumptive trial month or the first day of the month of the trial setting). Dispositive motions filed after this date will not be considered by the Court.
13. The parties are reminded that, prior to filing any motions concerning discovery, they must first meet and confer relating to any discovery disputes and then contact the Court to arrange a telephone discovery dispute conference if they are unable to resolve their dispute. If the dispute cannot be resolved in the first telephonic conference, the Court will establish, with the input of the parties, the mechanism

for submitting written positions to the Court on an expedited basis.

DATED: June 5, 2024

SULAIMAN LAW GROUP, LTD.

By: /s/ Mohammed O. Badwan  
Mohammed O. Badwan  
2500 s. Highland Ave., Ste. 200  
Lombard, IL 60148  
(630) 575-8180  
mbadwan@sulaimanlaw.com

*Attorney for Plaintiff Natalie Bacher*

THOMPSON COBURN LLP

By: /s/ Conor P. Neusel  
Conor P. Neusel, MO – 66111  
One US Bank Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
314-552-6000  
FAX 314-552-7000  
cneusel@thompsoncoburn.com

*Attorneys for Defendant  
Penn Aluminum International, LLC*